

Appl. No. 10/664,460
Amdt. dated March 10, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 16, 2004

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 5 as follows:

This application is related to co-pending applications United States Serial Number 10/666,294 entitled MULTI-LAYER PROCESS AND APPARATUS FOR PRODUCING HIGH STRENGTH FIBER-REINFORCED STRUCTURAL CEMENTITIOUS PANELS (~~Attorney Docket No. 2033.66886~~) and United States Serial Number 10/665,541 entitled EMBEDMENT DEVICE FOR FIBER-ENHANCED SLURRY (~~2033.66887~~), filed concurrently herewith and herein incorporated by reference.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 9 as follows:

Referring again to FIG. 1, the other operational components of the SCP panel production line will be described briefly, but they are described in more detail in co-pending, commonly assigned US. Patent Application Serial No. 10/666,294 (~~Docket No. 2033.66886~~) entitled, MULTI-LAYER PROCESS AND APPARATUS FOR PRODUCING HIGH STRENGTH FIBER-REINFORCED STRUCTURAL CEMENTITIOUS PANELS which has been incorporated by reference.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 23 as follows:

While a variety of embedment devices are contemplated, including, but not limited to vibrators, sheep's foot rollers and the like, in the preferred embodiment, the

embedment device 114 includes at least a pair of generally parallel shafts 116 mounted transversely to the direction of travel of the carrier web 14 on the frame 12. Each shaft 116 is provided with a plurality of relatively large diameter disks 118 which are axially separated from each other on the shaft by small diameter disks (not shown). During board production, the shafts and the disks 118 rotate together about the longitudinal axis of the shaft 116. As is well known in the art, either one or both of the shafts 116 may be powered, and if only one is powered, the other may be driven by belts, chains, gear drives or other known power transmission technologies to maintain a corresponding direction and speed to the driven shaft. The respective disks 118 of the adjacent, preferably parallel shafts 116 overlap and are intermeshed with each other for creating a “kneading” or “massaging” action in the slurry, which embeds the previously deposited fibers 112. In addition, the close, intermeshed and rotating relationship of the disks 118 prevents the buildup of slurry 46 on the disks, and in effect creates a “self-cleaning” action which significantly reduces production line downtime due to premature setting of clumps of slurry. By providing two sets of disks 118 which are laterally offset relative to each other, the slurry 46 is subjected to multiple acts of disruption, creating a “kneading” action which further embeds the fibers 112 in the slurry. The preferred embedment device 114 is described in greater detail in corresponding application Serial No. 10/665,541– entitled EMBEDMENT DEVICE FOR FIBER-ENHANCED SLURRY (~~2033.66887~~), which has been incorporated by reference herein.